

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Press Release

For Immediate Release
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SOUTHBOUND RESURFACING CONTINUES THIS WEEK ON I-75/ I-85 BETWEEN THE MERGE AND 10TH STREET

ATLANTA – The Georgia Department of Transportation is warning motorists traveling south through Atlanta to expect overnight and weekend delays on the Downtown Connector. Crews will work tonight, Thursday night and throughout the weekend to realign and resurfacing the southbound side of the interstate between the I-75/ I-85 merge and 10th Street. By morning rush hour on Monday, August 17 all work and major lane closures on this section will be completed.

Tonight, Wednesday August 12 work will start at 8 p.m. continuing overnight to 5a.m. Thursday, August 13. Crews are restriping I-85 southbound lanes for their final configuration.

- The four inside (left), southbound lanes, including the HOV lane, of I-85 will be closed starting at the Peachtree Street overpass through 10th Street.
- One I-85 southbound lane will be open to traffic. Additional lanes will reopen as striping is completed.

Thursday, August 13 work will start at 8 p.m. continuing overnight to 5 a.m. Friday, August 14. Crews are working on the shoulders and gore area between I-85 and I-75 southbound.

- The two outside southbound lanes of I-85 will be closed starting at the Peachtree Street overpass through 10th Street.
- The inside southbound lane of I-75 will be closed just after the Northside Drive overpass through 10th Street.

Friday, August 14 work will start at 8 p.m. continuing overnight into evening Saturday, August 15. Crews will be resurfacing I-75 and I-85 southbound.

- The two I-75 southbound lanes will be closed beginning just after the Northside Drive overpass through 10th Street. **All I-75 southbound traffic must use the I-75 south HOV lane. HEAVY DELAYS EXPECTED.**
- The I-75 southbound ramp to 16th Street will be closed.
- Three outside southbound lanes of I-85 will be closed starting at the Peachtree Street overpass through 10th street.
- Lanes on I-75 and I-85 southbound will reopen Saturday as resurfacing is completed.

When the above work is completed (expected Saturday evening), crews will shift traffic for resurfacing inside lanes on I-85 southbound continuing throughout Sunday, August 16 with all work completed by 5 a.m. Monday, August 17.

- The three inside southbound lanes of I-85, including the HOV lane, will be closed starting at the Peachtree Street overpass through 10th street.
- The I-75 southbound HOV lane will be closed just after the Northside Drive overpass through its merge with I-85 southbound.

By Monday morning all southbound lanes will be resurfaced and in their final alignment. This includes adding back the I-75 southbound lane that was closed off in September 2008, providing I-75 motorists with three lanes plus the HOV for merging into I-85 south. This weekend's work concludes major southbound lane closures in this section of the Downtown Connector.

Crews are expected to begin resurfacing the northbound section the weekend of August 21st, with all resurfacing to be completed in early November, weather permitting. There will be no closures during Labor Day weekend.

The Downtown Connector resurfacing is part of an ongoing \$88.5 million project to replace the 14th Street Bridge over the Downtown Connector to relieve congestion at the 14th Street interchange. The improved bridge features two new exit ramps from the interstate: southbound to 10th Street, which opened in June, and northbound to 17th Street, expected to open in early 2010. The estimated cost of the project is \$88.5 million.

Please Note: There are several major events occurring in metro Atlanta this weekend, including:

- The Atlanta Braves vs. Philadelphia Phillies at Turner Field: Aug. 14 at 7:30 p.m., Aug. 15 at 14 p.m. and Aug. 16 at 8 p.m.
- The Green Concert with Paul McCartney at Piedmont Park: Aug. 15. According to the Piedmont Park Conservancy there is not any parking available near the park for concert goers.

<http://www.piedmontpark.org/>

The Georgia DOT highly recommends motorists traveling to these and other events to utilize MARTA. Southbound motorists who do not need to go into Atlanta should take I-285.

Georgia DOT urges travelers to call 511 for updated information about this or any other construction project on interstates and state routes. Georgia 511 is a free phone service that provides real-time traffic and travel information statewide, such as traffic conditions, incidents, lane closures, and delays due to inclement weather. Callers also can transfer to operators to request assistance or report incidents 24 hours a day, seven days a week. More information is available at www.511ga.org.

The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to providing a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia's economy and is sensitive to both its citizens and its environment. For general information on the Georgia DOT, please visit our Web site (www.dot.ga.gov).